

# **EXHIBIT C**

# 3303-A

CONVENTION

- The People's Republic of Congo
- Congolese Superior Oil Company
- Cities Service Congo Petroleum Corporation
- Canadian Superior Oil Ltd.
- Société Nationale de Recherches et  
d'Exploitation Pétrolières "HYDRO-CONGO"

May 25, 1979

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ENGLISH  
TRANSLATION

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EXHIBIT I

Copy of Decree Granting the PERMIT

EXHIBIT II

EXHIBIT III

Depreciation Rates Applicable to the COMPANIES

EXHIBIT IV

I - Payment of Royalty

II - Payment of Corporate Tax

EXHIBIT V

Model of Letter of Guarantee

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TRANSLATION

CONVENTION

BETWEEN

The People's Republic of the Congo (hereinafter referred to as the "CONGO"), represented for the purposes hereof by its Minister of Mining and Energy Mr. Rodolphe Adada,

on the one hand,

AND

Congolese Superior Oil Company (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "SUPERIOR"), a Nevada (U.S.A.) corporation with registered offices at 26th Floor, First City National Bank Building, Houston, Texas 77001, United States of America, represented by Mr. Diego O. Giordano-Echegoyen, duly authorized for this purpose,

Cities Service Congo Petroleum Corporation (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "CITIES SERVICE") a Delaware (U.S.A.) corporation with registered offices at 306 South State Street, Dover, Delaware, ~~United States of America~~, represented by Mr. Antoine Saadi, duly authorized for this purpose,

Canadian Superior Oil Ltd. (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "CANADIAN"), a corporation incorporated under the laws of Canada, with registered offices at Three Calgary Place, 355 4th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, represented by Mr. Robert C. Schrader, duly authorized for this purpose,

Société Nationale de Recherches et d'Exploitation Pétrolières "HYDRO-CONGO" (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "HYDRO-CONGO"), a société nationale with registered offices at Brazzaville, represented by Mr. Alphonse M'Bouido-Nesa, duly authorized for this purpose,

hereinafter collectively referred to as the "COMPANIES", and individually "one of the COMPANIES" or the "COMPANY",

on the other hand.

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PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS, the CONGO wishes to promote and conduct, under the best conditions of effectiveness, exploration and development of its liquid and/or gaseous hydrocarbon resources so as to enable thereafter exploitation of these resources on the best possible terms; and

WHEREAS, for this purpose, the CONGO wishes to obtain the cooperation of qualified and well-known oil companies in order to have them provide HYDRO-CONGO, within the framework of a joint venture, with assistance necessary for the implementation of certain hydrocarbon exploration and the development and exploitation of petroleum deposits discovered on the type "A" permit known as "Marine 1" granted to HYDRO-CONGO, which is more fully described below, and on the exploitation permits which may be granted in respect of such exploration permit; and

WHEREAS, the COMPANIES shall carry out their exploration and production activities in accordance with the principles of the petroleum policy of the CONGO as incorporated in this Convention.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT HAS BEEN AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Definitions

~~For the purpose of this Convention, the terms and expressions set forth below shall have the following meanings:~~

1.01 Convention: This Convention between the CONGO and the COMPANIES.

1.02 Joint Venture: The joint venture organized by the joint operating agreement for the petroleum works as this term is hereinafter defined in sub-paragraph 1.10 below.

1.03 Joint Operating Agreement: The joint operating agreement for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons entered into among the COMPANIES for the exploration and possible exploitation of hydrocarbon deposits on the permit as this term is hereinafter defined in sub-paragraph 1.04 below.

1.04 Permit: The type "A" exploration permit known as "Marine 1", referred to in the preamble to the CONVENTION, granted to HYDRO-CONGO for the benefit of the JOINT VENTURE by the Decree, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit I to the CONVENTION, and all its extensions, amendments, variations or renewals, if any, as well as any exploitation permit which may be granted over any part of its surface.

1.05 Operator: The COMPANY which is entrusted, on behalf of the members of the JOINT VENTURE, with the petroleum works -- as this term is hereinafter defined in sub-paragraph 1.10 below -- on the PERMIT, in accordance with the provisions of the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT.

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1.06 Hydrocarbons: Solid, liquid and/or gaseous hydrocarbons discovered and/or produced on the PERMIT.

1.07 Natural Gas: Gaseous HYDROCARBONS produced by the COMPANIES on the PERMIT, but excluding condensate which by normal field methods of processing is separated and recovered as a liquid.

1.08 Liquid Hydrocarbons: HYDROCARBONS produced by the COMPANIES on the PERMIT, but excluding NATURAL GAS.

1.09 Affiliated Company:

1.09.1 Any company in which more than 50% of the voting rights in ordinary shareholders' meetings are held directly or indirectly by one of the COMPANIES;

1.09.2 Any company which holds, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the voting rights in the ordinary shareholders' meetings of one of the COMPANIES;

1.09.3 Any company whose voting rights in ordinary shareholders' meetings are subject to more than 50% control by a company which itself holds, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the voting rights in the ordinary shareholders' meetings of one of the COMPANIES;

1.09.4 Any company in which more than 50% of the voting rights in ordinary shareholders' meetings are held directly or indirectly by several COMPANIES or by several companies as described in sub-paragraph 1.09.1 to 1.09.3 above.

1.10 Petroleum Works: All the activities, wherever carried out, relating to exploration, development, exploitation, transportation, storage and disposition of HYDROCARBONS in the CONGO or for export.

1.11 Exploration Work: That part of the PETROLEUM WORKS which is undertaken with the goal of discovering HYDROCARBON deposits, including the discovery well and appraisal works, undertaken until the day on which the Operating Committee provided for in the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT decides, pursuant to Article 5 of the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT, that a discovered deposit is commercially exploitable.

1.12 Development and Exploitation Works: All PETROLEUM WORKS other than EXPLORATION WORKS, including transportation of HYDROCARBONS to the point of lifting by the COMPANIES.

1.13 Foreign Companies: The COMPANIES, except HYDRO-CONGO.

1.14 CFA Franc: Currency defined in Title II of the "Convention de coopération monétaire" between the member States of the Banque des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (B.E.A.C.) and the French Republic, as signed in Brazzaville on November 23, 1972.

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2. Purpose

2.01 The purpose of the CONVENTION and of the Exhibits hereto is to define the conditions of the participation of the COMPANIES in the PETROLEUM WORKS on the PERMIT within the framework of the JOINT VENTURE.

3. Effective Date - Term - Exploitation Permit

3.01 The CONVENTION shall be approved by an act having the force of law and shall come into force upon the publication of such act in the Official Journal of the CONGO.

3.02 The CONVENTION is entered into for the term of the PERMIT.

3.03 Each exploitation PERMIT shall have a duration of thirty (30) years.

4. Beneficiaries

4.01 The provisions of the CONVENTION shall apply as a matter of law to the COMPANIES and to any assignee of the rights of each COMPANY on the PERMIT, as well as to any company to which the COMPANIES or one of the COMPANIES shall have decided to associate by assigning to such company all or part of their rights and obligations on the PERMIT. However, any assignment must be submitted to the Minister in charge for approval prior to its coming into force.

If the decision of the Minister in charge is not rendered within one (1) month from the notification of the assignment, which approval to the assignment must be sought, such approval shall be deemed not to have been granted.

4.01.1 If the proposed assignee is a company wholly-controlled by the assignor or by the parent company of its group, the authorization of the Minister in charge shall be automatically granted and, in this case, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4.01 above, the authorization shall be deemed granted one (1) month after the request is made. If the proposed assignee is an AFFILIATED COMPANY, the authorization of the Minister in charge shall not be withheld unreasonably or in a discretionary manner.

4.01.2 Any subsequent action which would result in modifying the qualification of the assignee as a company wholly-controlled by the assignor or as an AFFILIATED COMPANY shall be considered as a new assignment and shall be subject, under the same conditions, to the prior authorization of the Minister in charge.

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4.01.3 In accordance with the petroleum policy of the CONGO, HYDRO-CONGO shall not assign its participating interest in the JOINT VENTURE unless the assignee is wholly-controlled by the CONGO.

## 5. Warranties

5.01 Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph 5.01.3 below, the CONGO warrants to the COMPANIES for the term of the CONVENTION, stable legal, financial, mining and economic conditions within which the COMPANIES will perform their activities in the CONGO, as such conditions arise from the laws and regulations in effect on the date of execution of the CONVENTION, and from the terms and conditions of the CONVENTION.

5.01.1 Therefore, the COMPANIES shall not be subject in any area whatsoever to any measure that would represent an aggravation of the situation described in paragraph 5.01 above.

5.01.2 In particular, any measure which would have the effect of either reducing net profits from the activities performed within the framework of the CONVENTION by decreasing gross income or by increasing the operating expenses of the COMPANIES, or generally jeopardizing the execution or the conduct of the PETROLEUM WORKS by restricting the COMPANIES' rights, shall be deemed to constitute an aggravation of the situation for the purpose of sub-paragraph 5.01.1 above.

5.01.3 Nonetheless, changes in labor, safety and environmental protection legislation and income taxation of individuals shall be applicable as a matter of law to the COMPANIES and to their staff, except if such legislation includes restrictions on the COMPANIES' rights concerning the ownership of their property or the free disposal of HYDROCARBONS to which they are entitled under Article 10 of the CONVENTION.

5.01.4 In addition, the COMPANIES shall not be subject to any discriminatory measures, in law or in fact, particularly with respect to the regulation of property or individuals.

5.02 The CONGO warrants to the COMPANIES for the term of the CONVENTION that, with respect to the corporate tax referred to in Article 6 of the CONVENTION, the tax conditions of the performance of their activities in the CONGO pursuant to the CONVENTION shall be governed by the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO, by amendments and regulations thereto and by the CONVENTION. Therefore, the COMPANIES shall not be subject, with respect to their activities in the CONGO under the CONVENTION, to any discriminatory tax measure in relation to the standard provisions applicable to Congolese or foreign companies, except those resulting from the CONVENTION.

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5.03 The CONGO warrants to the COMPANIES for the term of the CONVENTION that, pursuant to the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO, the mining royalty paid to the CONGO on the quantities of HYDROCARBONS to which the COMPANIES are entitled pursuant to the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT shall be fourteen and one half percent (14 1/2%) for LIQUID HYDROCARBONS and nine percent (9%) for NATURAL GAS.

#### 6. Taxes

6.01 For PETROLEUM WORKS, each of the COMPANIES shall be subject only to the mining royalty referred to in paragraph 5.03 and in Article 7 of the CONVENTION and to the corporate tax referred to in Articles 106 to 126 of the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO, to the exclusion of any other levy.

6.02 Consequently, each of the COMPANIES shall be exempt, for the PETROLEUM WORKS and for the term of the CONVENTION, from all other taxes and imposts. This exemption includes among others:

6.02.1 The exemption from any customs duty and any importation tax or deposit for all pieces of equipment, material and supplies and spare parts destined for the PETROLEUM WORKS, whether imported directly by the COMPANY or indirectly by the OPERATOR in the name of the COMPANY or through suppliers or subcontractors.

6.02.2 ~~The exemption from any export duties or taxes applicable to equipment and spare parts for such~~ equipment when such equipment and spare parts have been imported tax-free in accordance with sub-paragraph 6.02.1 above as well as to HYDROCARBONS produced on the PERMIT and belonging to the COMPANY in accordance with Article 10 below.

6.02.3 The exemption from the internal turnover tax, the taxe unique, the tax on transactions and all other indirect taxes relating to the furnishing of goods (material, equipment, spare parts, etc.), services and work of any kind relating to the PETROLEUM WORKS provided for in the CONVENTION, whether such goods, services or work are furnished by the COMPANY, by the OPERATOR, or by contractors, or by suppliers and entities providing such services, working directly or indirectly for the COMPANY.

6.02.4 The exemption from any registration tax (droit d'enregistrement) relating to any deed or instrument of any nature whatsoever to which the COMPANY, or OPERATOR on behalf of the COMPANY, may be a party within the scope of the PETROLEUM WORKS on the PERMIT; relating to any conveyance of ownership or transfer of use to the COMPANY of movables or immovables for the carrying out of the PETROLEUM WORKS; or relating to the insurance contracts to which the COMPANY or OPERATOR on its behalf may be a party, and concerning the PETROLEUM WORKS.

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6.02.5 The exemption from any tax or impost relating to the payment of interest or dividend by the COMPANY.

6.03 Computation of the corporate tax on each of the COMPANIES

6.03.1 Except for the rules stipulated in this paragraph 6.03, the rules governing the basis and collection of the corporate tax are those fixed by the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO.

6.03.2 Each of the COMPANIES shall be subject to the corporate tax, in accordance with the provisions of the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO, and if the corporate tax rate prescribed in the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO is less than fifty-five percent (55%), to an additional tax equal to the taxable income multiplied by the excess between fifty-five percent (55%) over said corporate tax rate.

6.03.3 The basis for computation of the corporate tax for each of the COMPANIES for its activities performed within the framework of the CONVENTION shall be computed on the basis of the prices set forth in Exhibit II to the CONVENTION. Depreciation shall be computed by each of the COMPANIES in accordance with rules set forth by the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO; nonetheless, each of the COMPANIES shall apply, item by item, the rates set forth in the table attached hereto as Exhibit III.

~~6.03.4 In order to permit the computation of the corporate tax owed by each of the COMPANIES for its activities performed within the framework of the CONVENTION, each COMPANY shall, from the effective date and for the term of the CONVENTION, maintain accounting books in accordance with the rules set forth by the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO.~~

6.03.5 The provisions of Article 109 of the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO shall not apply to the COMPANIES.

6.03.6 By exception to Article 116 of the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO, the COMPANIES shall not be authorized to deduct from their taxable income for the purpose of the corporate tax interest or agios paid on loans which may be made for the financing of the PETROLEUM WORKS from AFFILIATED COMPANIES. From the date on which the Operating Committee provided for in the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT shall have determined, in accordance with the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT, that a commercially exploitable discovery has been made, each COMPANY shall be permitted to deduct from its taxable income interest or agios paid on loans made for the financing of DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION WORKS by financial institutions independent from the COMPANIES, upon presentation by the borrowing COMPANY to the tax authorities of certificates issued by such financial institutions.

8.

6.03.7 ~~The mining royalty referred to in Article 7 below is deductible from taxable income and can in no case be treated as an advance payment toward the corporate tax.~~

6.03.8 The ten per cent (10%) limit set by the second paragraph of Article 20.I.6° of the Code Général des Impôts du Congo, as amended by Article 5 of Law No. 30774, shall not be applicable to the COMPANIES.

6.04 Remunerations and wages paid to the COMPANIES' personnel based in the CONGO for the performance of the PETROLEUM WORKS shall be subject to taxes on income in accordance with the provisions of the Code Général des Impôts du CONGO.

6.05 The corporate tax is paid by provisional monthly installments in accordance with the procedure set forth in Exhibit IV to the CONVENTION.

7. Mining royalty

7.01 The basis of computation of the mining royalty paid in cash or in kind is equal, for each COMPANY, to the value of the HYDROCARBONS lifted by such COMPANY, computed on the basis of the price determined in accordance with Exhibit II to the CONVENTION, ~~less domestic transportation, processing, storage and loading charges as said charges appear from the COMPANY's accounts and constitute tax deductible expenses.~~ The royalty is not due on those quantities of HYDROCARBONS lost or used for the PETROLEUM WORKS.

7.02 The mining royalty provided for in this Article 7 is payable in cash or in kind, at the option of the CONGO.

7.03 The OPERATOR shall communicate to the competent authority of the CONGO the expected date for the first exportation of HYDROCARBONS at least six (6) months in advance, so that this authority can advise the COMPANY or the OPERATOR within five (5) months following receipt of such notification, of the manner of payment of the mining royalty chosen by the Government. The Government shall always be able to modify the manner of payment so elected by notifying the COMPANY, or the OPERATOR acting on its behalf, at least three (3) months in advance. However, the Government shall be deemed to have initially opted for cash payment of the mining royalty.

If, at any time while the Government is taking the mining royalty in cash, the COMPANIES have the opportunity to enter into sales commitments extending beyond a three (3) month period, which commitment could not be satisfied if the Government should decide to take the mining royalty in kind, the COMPANIES may submit the draft of the sales contract to the Minister in charge, who will, at his discretion, approve it or not. If the draft contract is so approved, the mining royalty shall continue to be taken in cash for the duration of said contract.

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7.04 The quantity of HYDROCARBONS to which the mining royalty applies shall be measured at the point of delivery, as described in sub-paragraph 10.02.1. The methods for measurements to be used shall be approved by the competent authority of the CONGO which shall be advised of the progress of such operations so as to be able to be represented thereat and to exercise any control it may deem necessary.

Within one month from the end of the period for which the mining royalty is due, each COMPANY, or the OPERATOR on behalf of the COMPANY, shall provide the competent authority of the CONGO with a statement of the quantities of HYDROCARBONS to which the mining royalty applies, including any appropriate supporting documents.

7.05 The mining royalty, whether in cash or in kind, shall be computed and paid on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the conditions set forth below:

7.05.1 The payment in kind of the mining royalty shall be made to HYDRO-CONGO for the account of the CONGO pursuant to the terms set forth in paragraph 4.11 and in Articles 9 and 10 of the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT for the allocation to HYDRO-CONGO of the portion of production to which it is entitled. The quantities of HYDROCARBONS to which the CONGO is entitled pursuant to this Article 7 shall be delivered to HYDRO-CONGO during the month following that for which the mining royalty is due.

7.05.2 The payment in cash of the mining royalty shall be made during the month following the end of the calendar quarter for which the mining royalty in cash is due.

7.06 When the mining royalty is elected to be paid in cash, monthly declarations and provisional payments shall be made in accordance with the terms set forth in Exhibit IV to the CONVENTION.

7.07 By virtue of the special characteristics of NATURAL GAS the parties hereto shall consult, in the event NATURAL GAS is discovered, to settle upon the terms for payment in kind of the mining royalty on NATURAL GAS pursuant to the principles set forth in this Article 7.

8. Foreign exchange

8.01 The CONGO warrants, for the term of the CONVENTION, to the COMPANIES, to all individuals duly employed by them and to all individuals or entities entrusted by them with implementing or financing the PETROLEUM WORKS or with marketing the HYDROCARBONS that:

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8.01.1 The CONGO shall not require the COMPANIES to repatriate the funds arising from export sales of the HYDROCARBONS.

8.01.2 The COMPANIES may pay contractors, suppliers and lenders abroad in foreign currency, using funds maintained abroad by them, in execution of contracts entered into for the performance of the PETROLEUM WORKS.

8.01.3 The COMPANIES may borrow abroad all amounts which they may require to carry out the PETROLEUM WORKS.

8.01.4 The COMPANIES may transfer to suppliers residing outside of the franc zone all amounts owing thereto..

8.01.5 The COMPANIES may freely repatriate from the CONGO to member countries of the franc zone capital originating from these countries invested in the CONGO within the scope of the PETROLEUM WORKS, and may transfer, under the same conditions, the return on such capital, if any.

8.01.6 The COMPANIES may repatriate from the CONGO to countries outside of the franc zone any capital originating from these countries invested in the CONGO within the scope of the PETROLEUM WORKS, and may transfer, under the same conditions, the return on such capital, if any. The CONGO warrants to the COMPANIES that they shall obtain the means of payment to countries outside of the franc zone necessary to carry out the operations contemplated by the CONVENTION.

8.01.7 The COMPANIES may freely export from the CONGO to member countries of the franc zone all amounts which they may owe to suppliers, shippers and other entities providing services, as well as to their shareholders residing in the franc zone, and in general, all amounts which the COMPANIES may owe in any respect whatsoever during the term of the CONVENTION.

8.01.8 Staff members who are nationals of member countries of the franc zone duly employed by the COMPANIES may freely export from the CONGO to countries of the franc zone any portion of their salaries they have saved.

8.01.9 The COMPANIES may export from the CONGO to countries outside of the franc zone all amounts which they may owe to suppliers, shippers and other entities offering services, as well as to their shareholders residing in these countries.

8.01.10 Staff members who are nationals of the countries outside of the franc zone duly employed by the COMPANIES may export from the CONGO to such countries any portion of their salaries they have saved.

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8.02 All currency transfers to or from the franc zone made pursuant to sub-paragraphs 8.01.4, 8.01.6, 8.01.9 and 8.01.10 above shall be carried out under the supervision of the Bureau des Relations Financières avec l'Etranger / Bureau of Financial Relations with Foreign Countries / ("B.R.F.E.") in accordance with the rules in effect in the CONGO pertaining to the franc zone.

8.03 All transactions contemplated by sub-paragraphs 8.01.4, 8.01.6, 8.01.9 and 8.01.10 above shall not be made more onerous for the COMPANIES, through the imposition of different rates or special taxes or commissions, than for other purchasers and sellers of currency in commercial transactions.

9. Lump sum payments

9.01 The COMPANY appointed as OPERATOR by the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT shall make the following lump sum payments to the CONGO on behalf of the FOREIGN COMPANIES:

9.01.1 Two hundred and fifty million (250,000,000) CFA FRANCS when the daily production of LIQUID HYDROCARBONS on the PERMIT shall have reached thirty thousand (30,000) barrels per day and thereafter averaged thirty thousand (30,000) barrels per day for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days; and

9.01.2 Six hundred and twenty five million (625,000,000) CFA FRANCS when the daily production of LIQUID HYDROCARBONS on the PERMIT shall have reached seventy five thousand (75,000) barrels per day and thereafter averaged seventy five thousand (75,000) barrels per day for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days.

9.01.3 The lump sum amounts set forth in sub-paragraphs 9.01.1 and 9.01.2 above shall become due thirty (30) days following the expiration of each one of the one hundred and twenty (120) day periods referred to in said sub-paragraphs.

9.02 The amounts set forth in sub-paragraphs 9.01.1 and 9.01.2 above may be capitalized and depreciated for tax purposes by the FOREIGN COMPANIES.

10. Disposition of HYDROCARBONS

10.01 Each COMPANY shall have the right to take freely the portion of the HYDROCARBONS to which it is entitled pursuant to the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT. It may freely sell, transfer, transport, consume or export, directly or indirectly, such portion.

10.02 Nonetheless, and by derogation to the principle set forth in paragraph 10.01 above, each COMPANY shall, at the request of the CONGO, affect by priority to the satisfaction of the needs of the Congolese industry, under the conditions

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defined hereinafter, the HYDROCARBONS derived from its exploitation, provided that: (a) HYDRO-CONGO's share of production shall have been first used to satisfy the needs of the Congolese industry; and (b) the maximum of the share of production of each FOREIGN COMPANY so affected to satisfy the needs of the Congolese industry shall not exceed thirty percent (30%) of all HYDROCARBONS to which each FOREIGN COMPANY is entitled.

10.02.1 Delivery of the quantities of HYDROCARBONS to which the CONGO is entitled, including the LIQUID HYDROCARBONS destined for the Pointe-Noire refinery, shall be made either at well head or at the gathering point, should the parties to the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT decide to build one in accordance with the provisions of said JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT. In the event deliveries of LIQUID HYDROCARBONS to the CONGO pursuant to this paragraph exceed the CONGO's mining royalty share as provided in paragraph 5.03 above, the sales price of such excess shall be the weighted average of the prices actually realized by the COMPANIES in sales to non-affiliated purchasers concluded during the calendar month preceding the month during which such LIQUID HYDROCARBON sale to the CONGO took place.

10.02.2 The commitment of each COMPANY to sell a part of its production of HYDROCARBONS from the PERMIT as described in paragraph 10.02 above and at the price defined in sub-paragraph 10.02.1 above is limited for each calendar year to the share of the needs of the Congolese industry for the HYDROCARBONS of the quality required by the Congolese industry equal to the ratio of the portion of the production of HYDROCARBONS of this quality to which the COMPANY is entitled pursuant to the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT and the total production of HYDROCARBONS of such quality from the territory of the CONGO for the same calendar year. The CONGO shall notify the COMPANY, before the commencement of each calendar year, of the tonnage required by it for such calendar year pursuant to the commitment set forth hereinabove.

10.02.3 The CONGO may choose the quality which is the most appropriate to its needs among those qualities available, and to the extent to which the OPERATOR determines that it is possible within the framework of the operations contemplated by the CONVENTION, the OPERATOR shall endeavor to furnish to the CONGO the various qualities which the CONGO may request.

10.02.4 The quantities of HYDROCARBONS sold pursuant to the provisions of this Article 10 shall be paid for by the CONGO within fifteen (15) days from the end of the calendar month in which delivery is effected, upon presentation of the pertinent invoice by each COMPANY.

10.03 In the event NATURAL GAS is discovered, the parties hereto shall meet as soon as possible to work out the changes, if any, which may have to be made to this Article 10 to apply the principles of the CONVENTION to the exploitation of such deposits.

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10.03.1 The exploitation, if any, of NATURAL GAS deposits shall be carried out pursuant to the principles which govern the relationship between the members of the JOINT VENTURE.

10.03.2 If the use of NATURAL GAS discovered on the PERMIT is not judged profitable by the members of the JOINT VENTURE pursuant to the provisions of the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT, the CONGO shall have the right, directly or through HYDRO-CONGO, to use this NATURAL GAS at its own expense.

In the event the CONGO exercises its right to use NATURAL GAS for its own benefit as contemplated hereinabove, HYDRO-CONGO shall provide at its own expense facilities necessary for the development, exploitation, transportation and processing, including but not limited to, separation, compression or liquefaction, of the NATURAL GAS from the first separator after the point of production, and of sufficient capacity to handle NATURAL GAS. The COMPANIES agree to provide, on terms and conditions to be agreed at that time, such technical assistance and cooperation as may be required by HYDRO-CONGO for the development and exploitation of NATURAL GAS deposits, and for the laying out, construction, operation and maintenance of these facilities. In no event shall the aforesaid activities interfere with the PETROLEUM WORKS of the JOINT VENTURE.

10.03.3 All NATURAL GAS produced on the PERMIT and not used directly for the PETROLEUM WORKS or pursuant to sub-paragraph 10.03.2 hereinabove, may be burnt off.

#### 11. Employment and training of personnel

11.01 In accordance with sub-paragraph 5.01.3 hereinabove, each of the COMPANIES shall be subject to the labor legislation and regulations embodied in the laws relating in particular to general working conditions, the regulation of pay and the prevention of work accidents and work-related illnesses and indemnification therefor, as well as to the laws relating to professional associations and labor organizations. On its part, the CONGO shall not apply to any COMPANY or its personnel any labor and welfare regulation in a manner which may be considered discriminatory in relation to the laws regulating other companies exercising their activity in the CONGO.

11.02 Each one of the COMPANIES agrees to undertake, jointly with other members of the JOINT VENTURE and in proportion to the percentage of its participation in the JOINT VENTURE, for the training, technically and administratively, of the Congolese supervisory employees, foremen and personnel required for the exploitation activities, by organizing apprenticeship programs in the CONGO or abroad, by payment of scholarships for study abroad and by the establishment of professional training centers in the CONGO, in a way commensurate with the magnitude of such activities.

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11.02.1 The professional training programs and the budgets therefor shall be approved by the Operating Committee referred to in the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT after consultation with the Congolese Government.

11.02.2 Each of the COMPANIES shall jointly with the other members of the JOINT VENTURE, give priority in employment in its facilities and installations to equally qualified Congolese personnel. Each COMPANY shall assure the professional and technical training of said Congolese personnel so as to facilitate their access, at all levels, to jobs commensurate with their abilities.

11.02.3 On the production work sites situated outside or near cities and towns, the COMPANIES shall provide jointly lodging for the workers in normal conditions of hygiene and cleanliness, and shall create, if necessary, the medical, scholastic, athletic and cultural infrastructure corresponding to the normal needs of the workers and their families.

11.02.4 The means provided jointly by the COMPANIES for the application of the provisions of this Article 11 purport to permit the gradual replacement of foreign personnel of the COMPANIES assigned to the PETROLEUM WORKS by Congolese personnel. Therefore, the COMPANIES shall use their best efforts so that, at the expiration of the tenth year from the beginning of the DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION WORKS, the personnel used by the OPERATOR for the PETROLEUM WORKS in the CONGO include one hundred per cent (100%) of laborers and clerks, eighty percent (80%) of foremen and technicians, and fifty percent (50%) of management and supervisory employees, of Congolese citizenship.

11.02.5 The personnel of Congolese citizenship used by the OPERATOR for PETROLEUM WORKS in the CONGO shall be recruited by the OPERATOR and hired, at his request, by HYDRO-CONGO which will assign such personnel to the OPERATOR for purposes of being trained by the OPERATOR and, at the end of the professional training period, of employment in the PETROLEUM WORKS. From the end of such professional training period, those members of such personnel whom the OPERATOR will have decided to retain for the PETROLEUM WORKS shall be the OPERATOR's employees for the entire duration of their assignment to the OPERATOR.

## 12. Congolese suppliers

12.01 In carrying out the PETROLEUM WORKS, the COMPANIES or the OPERATOR on their behalf shall give priority to Congolese companies in the acquisition of goods and services where such companies offer quality, quantity, terms of sale, conditions of delivery and related services equal to those available for the acquisition of goods and services abroad.

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12.02 Notwithstanding the foregoing, and subject to conditions of general applicability which the CONGO may impose, the COMPANIES, or the OPERATOR on their behalf, may freely choose the charterers and ships of any registry for their use for whatever purpose. To the extent available, the COMPANIES shall use the Congolese merchant fleet during the term of the CONVENTION if the rates and other conditions offered by such fleet are no less favorable than those offered on the international market.

### 13. Supply of information

13.01 The COMPANIES shall supply the CONGO with all information in their possession required to be communicated by the Mining Code. On its part, the CONGO may communicate to the COMPANIES information, particularly of a technical nature, which may be useful in the PETROLEUM WORKS. The COMPANIES agree not to divulge this information and these documents to third parties, except as required for the PETROLEUM WORKS, provided that, in this case, a commitment be obtained from the recipient to treat such information and documents as confidential.

13.02 In addition to the information the COMPANIES are required to communicate pursuant to the Mining Code, they shall, without charge, place at the disposition of the CONGO all geological information which may be useful in the exploration for and exploitation of mineral substances within the PERMIT other than HYDROCARBONS. The COMPANY which acts as OPERATOR ~~must notify to the competent Congolese authorities all discoveries made on the PERMIT of mineral substances other than HYDROCARBONS;~~ the COMPANIES shall consult to evaluate the possibility, in view of technical and economic factors, of participating jointly in the exploitation of said mineral substances. The COMPANIES agree not to divulge this information to third parties. The CONGO may freely use any information received under this paragraph if the COMPANIES express their lack of interest or fail to submit within four (4) months from the receipt of the information a proposal acceptable to the CONGO for a specific exploration or exploitation permit covering said mineral substance or substances.

13.03 At the request of the Minister in charge, the COMPANIES will consider all available information concerning possibilities for the exploration for mineral substances in any part of the Congolese territory indicated to them by said authority and shall consult to evaluate the possibility, in view of technical and economic factors, of participating jointly in the exploration for the said mineral substances.

### 14. Transport and treatment of products

14.01 The Minister in charge may request the COMPANIES to participate with other producers in the CONGO in the joint

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installation or use of facilities or pipelines to pump out all or part of the production of HYDROCARBONS, on the condition that (i) the installation of such facilities or pipelines is technically feasible under normal economic conditions, and (ii) that their use does not jeopardize directly or indirectly the economic profitability of the deposits discovered.

14.01.1 After consultation with the competent Congolese authority, transport rates for pumping out the production shall be established by the companies exploiting the deposits.

14.02 In the event that production permits and a market for finished products is assured, the CONGO may ask the COMPANIES to consult and evaluate, in view of economic conditions and forecasts of profitability, the possibility of constructing a HYDROCARBON refinery in the CONGO jointly with the CONGO and/or other partners approved by the CONGO.

#### 15. Force majeure

15.01 In the event that the CONGO or one or several of the COMPANIES finds it impossible, either partially or totally, to perform one or more of their obligations contemplated by the CONVENTION, or arising therefrom, by reason of force majeure, an unforeseeable circumstance (cas fortuit) or an occurrence which may be considered as similar to force majeure (hereinafter collectively referred to as "FORCE MAJEURE"), the party invoking FORCE MAJEURE shall inform the other parties as soon as possible.

15.02 Said notification shall be addressed in writing either by telex confirmed by letter or by registered letter, return receipt requested, and shall set forth those circumstances which establish FORCE MAJEURE.

15.03 All occurrences independent of the will or control of one or the other party, which the parties cannot reasonably overcome or avoid and whose consequence is to prevent partially or totally or to delay significantly the performance of the obligations of the parties, shall be considered as events of FORCE MAJEURE. For the purpose of the CONVENTION, FORCE MAJEURE shall include but not be limited to: war, serious civil disturbances, insurrection, national strikes and any strikes of a general nature, earthquake, fire, explosion, other catastrophes and all hindrances which result directly or indirectly from orders or prohibitions of a government authority.

15.04 FORCE MAJEURE shall nonetheless not be validly invoked if the events, acts or occurrences in question were reasonably foreseeable or could have been remedied by the exercise of reasonable diligence. FORCE MAJEURE will exist if necessary equipment cannot be found, or can be found only at a prohibitive price. Lack of funds shall not constitute FORCE MAJEURE.

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15.05 Time periods for the performance of the obligations of each COMPANY affected by the event of FORCE MAJEURE shall be extended automatically for a term equal to the delay caused by said FORCE MAJEURE; it being understood (i) that all such extensions shall not give rise to any penalty to the party responsible for performing these obligations, and (ii) that obligations other than those affected by FORCE MAJEURE shall continue to be fulfilled in accordance with the provisions of the CONVENTION.

15.06 In all cases, the party affected shall take, in agreement with the other parties, all appropriate measures to assure the normal resumption of the performance of the obligations affected by FORCE MAJEURE. If, following FORCE MAJEURE, one of the parties is not able to perform its obligations as contemplated by the CONVENTION for a period of three (3) months following the notification contemplated hereinabove, the parties shall meet as soon as possible to examine the consequences of the occurrences in question and in particular the consequences on the time periods for performance of their respective obligations. Should the parties not reach an agreement on said consequences, they shall submit their dispute to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 below.

#### 16. Tax declaration and payment

Each COMPANY shall be responsible for its declaration to the CONGO's tax authorities and for the payment of its taxes arising from its participation in the activities of the JOINT VENTURE in the CONGO on the basis of its net income from all of its activities covered by the CONVENTION.

#### 17. Arbitration

17.01 All disputes arising in connection with the CONVENTION between the CONGO on the one hand and any COMPANY on the other hand which cannot be resolved otherwise amicably shall be finally settled by arbitration in accordance with the rules then in effect of the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (the "Center") created by the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of other States to which the CONGO became a party on October 14, 1966.

17.02 Each party to a dispute shall be entitled to appoint one arbitrator and the arbitrators so appointed shall agree on another arbitrator, if necessary, to achieve an odd number of arbitrators. In the event that agreement upon another arbitrator cannot be reached, such arbitrator shall be appointed by the President of the Center.

17.03 Arbitration shall take place in Geneva, Switzerland. The award which will be rendered in English and French with both texts having equal validity shall be final and

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binding upon the parties to the arbitration. Judgment upon the award rendered may be entered in any court or other authority having jurisdiction, or application may be made to said court or other authority for a judicial acceptance of the award and an order of enforcement, as the case may be.

17.04 The Center's fees for arbitrating a dispute shall be borne equally by the disputants.

17.05 Any dispute which may arise among the COMPANIES shall be settled in accordance with the arbitration clause of the JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT.

18. Applicable law

The CONVENTION shall be governed by Congolese law.

19. Notices

19.01 All notices shall be validly given by mail, cable or telex, addressed to the other party or parties at the address indicated below:

(a) for the CONGO:

Minister of Mines and Energy  
Ministry of Mines and Energy  
Brazzaville  
People's Republic of the Congo

attention:  
The Minister

(b) for SUPERIOR:

Congolese Superior Oil Company  
P.O. Box 1521  
Houston, Texas 77001  
United States of America

Telex: 0775369

attention:  
Vice-President Exploration

(c) for CITIES SERVICE:

Cities Service Congo Petroleum Corporation  
P.O. Box 642  
Houston, Texas 77001  
United States of America

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Telex: 762056

attention:  
Vice-President Operations

(d) for CANADIAN:

Canadian Superior Oil Ltd.  
Three Calgary Place  
355 4th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0J3

Telex: 03826640

attention:  
Vice-President Exploration

(e) for HYDRO-CONGO:

Société Nationale de Recherches  
et d'Exploitation--HYDRO-CONGO  
B.P. 2008  
Brazzaville  
République Populaire du Congo

Telex: 5220

attention:  
The General Manager

All formal notices will be sent by registered mail, return receipt requested, or, if sent by cable or telex, confirmed by registered mail, return receipt requested.

19.02 Each of the parties may change the above address by advising the other parties in writing in accordance with the provisions of this Article 19.

19.03 During the exploration stage, each of the COMPANIES shall designate a representative in the CONGO to whom all formal notices may be validly given. If a commercially exploitable discovery is made, each of the COMPANIES shall establish a branch in the CONGO, duly registered with the Registry of Commerce. By derogation to Article 20 of Law No. 29/62 of June 16, 1962, as amended, the COMPANIES shall not be required to organize a subsidiary company formed under Congolese law.

## 20. Amendments

Amendments may be made to one or several provisions of the CONVENTION, at a party's request, by mutual agreement of the parties.

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21. Guarantee by parent company

The obligations of the COMPANIES pursuant to this CONVENTION are guaranteed by the parent companies of their respective groups, if the case arises, pursuant to letters of guarantee, a form of which is annexed hereto as Exhibit V.

Done at Brazzaville, on May 15, 1979.

For the People's Republic of  
the Congo

Rodolphe Adada,  
Minister of Mining and Energy

For Congolese Superior  
Oil Company

For Société Nationale de  
Recherches et d'Exploitation  
Pétrolières "HYDRO-CONGO"

Diego O. Giordano-Echegoyen,  
Vice-President

Alphonse M'Boudo-Nesa,  
General Manager

For Cities Service Congo  
Petroleum Corporation

For Canadian Superior  
Oil Ltd.

Antoine Saadi,  
Vice-President

Robert C. Schrader,  
Vice-President,  
International Contracts

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EXHIBIT I

COPY OF DECREE GRANTING THE PERMIT

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EXHIBIT I

COPY OF DECREE GRANTING THE PERMIT

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TRANSLATION

DECREES N° 253/78 of May 16, 1978, granting  
to HYDRO-CONGO a type "A" hydrocarbons exploration permit  
(known as "Marine 1")

The President of the Central Committee of the Parti Congolais  
du Travail, President of the Republic, Chief of State,  
President of the Council of Ministers,

- Having reviewed Act N° 638/ICE/68 of March 30, 1969, establishing, organizing and regulating Public Institutions;
- Having reviewed Decree N° 79/154 of April 4, 1978 appointing the Prime Minister;
- Having reviewed Decree N° 79/155 of April 4, 1978 appointing the members of the Council of Ministers;
- Having reviewed Law N° 32/62 of June 16, 1962 establishing the Mining Code;
- Having reviewed Law N° 34/62 of June 16, 1962 setting the rates and rules for the payment of duties on mining titles;
- Having reviewed Law N° 35/62 of August 12, 1962 completing the provisions of the Mining Code;
- Having reviewed Decree N° 62/247 of August 17 1962 setting forth various conditions of application of Law N°32/62 referred to above;
- Having reviewed Government Order N° 14/73 of June 4, 1973 deciding the creation of Hydro-Congo;
- Having reviewed the permit application introduced by Hydro-Congo on January 13, 1978 under N° DRE/EC/252/253/ALC/78;
- Having reviewed Decree N° 72/111 of March 13, 1978 granting the "autorisation personnelle miniere" to Hydro-Congo;

After consultation with the Council of Ministers;

D E C R E E S:Article 1

It is hereby granted to Hydro-Congo pursuant to the conditions set in the present Decree a type "A" exploration permit, known as "Marine 1", valid for liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons, and the surface of which is fixed equal to 1,400 (one thousand four hundred and thirty-two) square kilometers, and is shown on the map attached hereto as Exhibit 1; the surface is included within the perimeter defined by:

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1. a. The straight lines joining the points 1 and 2, 2 and 3, 3 and 4, 4 and 5, 5 and 6, 6 and 7, 7 and 8, 8 and 9, 9 and 10; these lines are reportedly coincident with the limit separating the renewed "Madingo Maritime (A)" permit and the "Marine 1" permit.
- b. The straight line joining the points 10 and 11; this straight line being reportedly partially coincident in part with the limit separating the renewed "Madingo Maritime (A)" permit and in part with the limit separating the "Loango East" concession and the "Marine 1" permit.
- c. The straight lines joining the points 11 and 12, 12 and 13, 13 and 14, 14 and 15, 15 and 16, and 16 and 17; these straight lines reportedly coincide with the limit separating the "Loango East" concession and the "Marine 1" permit.
- d. The straight lines joining the points 17 and 18, and 18 and 19; these straight lines reportedly coincide with the limit separating the "Loango West" concession and the "Marine 1" permit.
- e. The straight lines joining the points 19 and 20, 20 and 21, 21 and 22, 22 and 23, 23 and 24, 24 and 25; these straight lines are reportedly coincident with the limit separating the renewed "Pointe-Noire Grands

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Ponds (A)" permit and the "Marine 1" permit.

f. The straight line joining the points 25 and 26; this straight line reportedly coincides with the limit separating the "Mer Profonde" permit and the "Marine 1" permit.

g. The straight line joining the points 26 and 1, i.e., a section of the straight line passing on the intersection of the low-tide mark and the limit of the territories of Congo and Gabon in a geographic azimuth of 212°; this straight line is reportedly coincident with the limit separating the territorial waters of Congo and Gabon.

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2. The points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 are defined as follows:

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Coordonnées Géographiques Ellipsoïde de Clarke 1880		Coordonnées U.T.M. (Clarke 1880) Fusée 32-N : 9°E	
Points	Longitude EAST : Latitude SOUTH :	EAST	NORTH
	Point located at 38 km from the low-tide mark on the straight line defined in paragraph 1.g. above.		
	10°58'14"260	4°14'54"550	742.730 : 9.520.170
2	11°02'31"668	4°18'29"055	726.652 : 9.523.500
3	11°05'15"851	4°15'11"228	731.714 : 9.529.624
4	11°09'50"804	4°15'10"466	740.214 : 9.529.624
5	11°09'51"271	4°17'56"970	740.214 : 9.524.508,361
6	11°15'05"727	4°17'56"058	749.914 : 9.524.508,361
7	11°15'05"241	4°15'09"563	749.914 : 9.529.624
8	11°23'36"921	4°15'08"018	765.700 : 9.529.624
9	11°27'26"845	4°18'20"070	772.775 : 9.523.700
10	11°27'28"782	4°28'12"323	772.775 : 9.505.500
11	11°16'15"217	4°28'14"496	752.000 : 9.505.500
12	11°16'15"066	4°27'25"678	752.000 : 9.507.000
13	11°15'10"219	4°27'25"878	750.000 : 9.507.000
14	11°15'09"972	4°26'04"513	750.000 : 9.509.500
15	11°14'21"337	4°26'04"661	748.500 : 9.509.500
16	11°14'21"191	4°25'15"841	748.500 : 9.511.000
17	11°10'40"712	4°25'16"499	741.700 : 9.511.000
18	11°09'55"210	4°24'38"710	740.000 : 9.512.400
19	11°09'55"600	4°26'54"240	740.000 : 9.509.000
20	11°07'32"384	4°26'54"636	736.500 : 9.508.000
21	11°07'53"139	4°31'15"025	736.500 : 9.500.000
22	11°04'54"774	4°31'15"544	731.000 : 9.500.000
23	11°04'54"312	4°28'32"796	731.000 : 9.505.000
24	11°00'46"128	4°28'33"491	723.346,900 : 9.505.000
25	Intersection of Longitude East 11°00'46"944 meridian and straight line J-K of the original "Pointe Noire Grand Ponds" permit, as defined in Decree No. 68-270/M CAEIM of October 17, 1968.		
	Point Located 65 km from the low-tide mark on the straight line defined in paragraph 1.g. above.		

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ARTICLE 2

The minimum work program to be performed on the exploration permit described in Article 1 above is defined in Exhibit 2 hereto.

ARTICLE 3

Hydro-Congo is hereby authorized to become a party in association with the companies executing a convention with the People's Republic of the Congo, for the implementation of the exploration permit described in Article 1 above as well as any exploitation and transportation permits which may derive therefrom.

ARTICLE 4

The exploration permit described in Article 1 above may be renewed for a period of three (3) years in accordance with the conditions set forth in the Mining Code ("Code Minier").

The minimum work program to be conducted within the initial period and the renewal period as well as the areas to be relinquished on the exploration permit described in Article 1 above, are set forth in Exhibit 2 hereto.

ARTICLE 5

In the event a discovery of an exploitable reservoir is made on the area of the exploration permit described in Article 1 above, Hydro-Congo shall request an exploitation permit for hydrocarbons, which shall be granted as a matter of law.

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Each hydrocarbons exploitation permit is valid for thirty (30) years. The hydrocarbons exploitation permit may not be renewed.

All matters not defined by the present Decree regarding the hydrocarbons exploitation permit derived from the exploration permit described in Article 1 above are governed by the provision of the Mining Code relating to concessions.

ARTICLE 6

The sub-contractors hired by Hydro-Congo or by any company associated with Hydro-Congo shall comply with the Mining Code.

ARTICLE 7

The Minister of Mines and Energy is hereby entrusted with the implementation hereof which shall be registered, communicated wherever necessary and published in the Official Journal of the People's Republic of the Congo.

Done in Brazzaville on May 13, 1973.

President of the Central  
Committee of the Parti Congolais  
President of the Republic,  
President of the  
Council of Ministers

Prime Minister,  
of the Government

Minister of Mines and Energy

Louis SOKOU-MOUMOU

(n) Denis Sasson-Nguesso

Colonel-Major

By the Minister of Mines

(n) Denis Sasson-Nguesso

Minister of Mines

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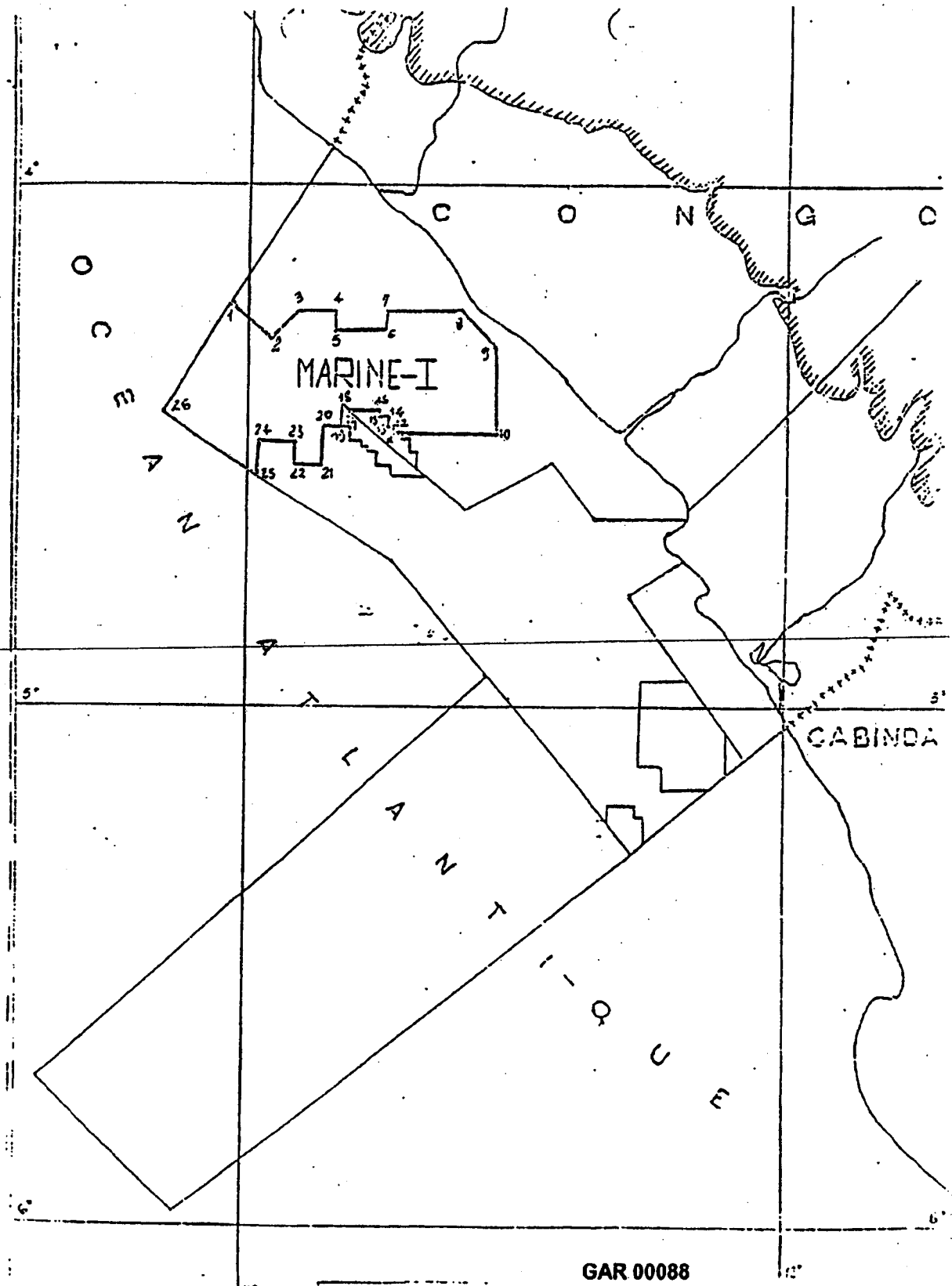


EXHIBIT 1

MAP OF THE "MARINE 1" PERMIT

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ANNEXE 2

I - Minimum Work Program

A. Initial Period

The term of the first period shall be five (5) years.

Phase I

The term of Phase I shall be three (3) years and shall consist of the following:

(a) One thousand (1000) kilometers of Marine seismic.

(b) Within six (6) months after receipt of the processed data commit to drill a pre-salt test well to be commenced within twenty-four (24) months from the date of signing the Convention with the State, but not later than thirty (30) months from such date, depending upon availability of suitable equipment at competitive rates, or relinquish the entire permit.

(c) The permit holder shall have the option to relinquish the permit at the later of the following two dates: (i) ninety (90) days after completion of the exploration well, or (ii) ninety (90) days before the end of Phase I, or proceed into Phase II.

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ANNEXE 2

I - Minimum Work Program

A. Initial Period

The term of the first period shall be five (5) years.

Phase I

The term of Phase I shall be three (3) years and shall consist of the following:

(a) One thousand (1000) kilometers of Marine seismic.

(b) Within six (6) months after receipt of the processed data commit to drill a pre-salt test well to be commenced within twenty-four (24) months from the date of signing the Convention with the State, but not later than thirty (30) months from such date, depending upon availability of suitable equipment at competitive rates, or relinquish the entire permit.

(c) The permit holder shall have the option to relinquish the permit at the later of the following two dates: (i) ninety (90) days after completion of the exploration well, or (ii) ninety (90) days before the end of Phase I, or proceed into Phase II.

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Phase II

The term of Phase II shall be two (2) years.

During the course of Phase II, the permit holder shall drill two (2) pre-salt exploration wells. The permit holder shall have the option to relinquish the permit upon completion of each well.

B. Renewal period

The exploration permit shall be renewed upon request from the permit holder for a three (3) year ~~renewal period, during the course of which at least three~~ (3) wells will be drilled. However, the permit holder shall have the right to relinquish the permit upon completion of each well.

C. For purposes of paragraphs A and B above, the obligation to drill a well shall be deemed satisfied by the permit holder when the objective depth of formation is reached, or expenses actually incurred for such well shall have reached an amount equal to one hundred and fifty percent (150 %) of the estimated cost of such well, as budgeted by the Operating Committee of the Joint Venture to be formed by the permit holder of the Convention with the People's Republic of Congo described in Article 3 of the Decree.

II - Relinquishments

The permit holder shall relinquish the original area as follows:

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(a) An area equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the original contract area shall be relinquished at the end of Phase I of the initial period;

(b) Another area equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the original contract area shall be relinquished at the end of Phase II of the initial period; and

(c) The remainder of the original contract area shall be entirely relinquished upon termination of the renewal period, except for the area or areas of the permit which are covered by one or several exploitation permits, if any;

(d) Areas of the permit that the Operating Committee of the Joint Venture described above has determined, before the effective date of the relinquishments or the expiration of the renewal period, to cover commercial reservoirs shall be excluded from areas relinquished by the permit holder upon termination of Phase I and Phase II of the first period and upon termination of the renewal period.

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